

**The Times-Dispatch**

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MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1912.

**WILSON IN THE LEAD.**

Baltimore, Md., June 23.—Wilson, first; Clark, second; Underwood, third; Harmon eliminated, with a possibility of Bryan, was the way the situation looked to-night, but no man can pretend to read the minds of the 750 men who are needed to nominate a Democratic candidate. Hundreds of conferences are being held. The arrival of each delegation adds doubt and mystery to the result. The old-line politicians as well as the new are up in the air, for they face a new alignment within the party, and the relative strength of the conservative and the liberal wings only several ballots in the convention can disclose.

It seems certain that Bryan is for Wilson against the field. The Clark people are saying so freely. Clark's misapprehension of Bryan's call for support against Parker has had little to do with Bryan's attitude, but only served to intensify it. Whether there is any composition of the differences as to Parker or not, it appears that Bryan will throw his strength to Wilson, and if Wilson cannot be nominated, Bryan may, it is generally believed, by entering the race, seek to save the party from a commitment to a conservative.

The Virginia delegation will, under the working of the unit rule, join the former hope of Underwood, and when he is dropped out probably will support Clark or whoever is most likely to defeat Wilson. The organization does not want Wilson, and it will fight him to the last ditch.

Harmon practically has been abandoned by the forces that would like to see him elected. His campaign has been a failure, and there is little sentiment for him. Underwood's conservatism and the sectional argument will shut the door of opportunity to him. The dark horses are not striking much of a gain. It looks like Wilson, but there are a thousand potential complications that may upset all present indications. Wilson's strength will hold together to the last.

There is one thing that is no guess, and that is a sharp and permanent division in the Democratic party. The desire for harmony that will enable the Democrats to present a united front to the country to vanquish the divided Republican party will prevail this year, but there is no getting around the fact that there is a powerful, if not a prevailing, progressive wing in the party. It has come at last and it will come near nominating Woodrow Wilson, or in his stead some other real and militant opponent of the old order.

**"WILSON AND WIN."**

Woodrow Wilson stands out clearly and boldly as the only real progressive among the avowed candidates for the Democratic nomination at Baltimore. Underwood and Harmon are unquestionably conservatives. Clark is playing the conservative kind of politics, and will align himself with the wing that can give him the greatest number of votes. He hesitates now between the conservatives and the liberals; he is afraid to take sides with Bryan until he finds out whether Bryan is to win or lose. Of all the leading candidates for the nomination, Woodrow Wilson is the only one who has frankly, openly and unequivocally taken this stand by the side of Bryan in the fight on Parker as temporary chairman. The other candidates are dickered behind the scenes, but there is Wilson, coming out into the open and letting the American people know where he stands. It is characteristic of the man; it is characteristic of the cause which he represents—the cause of frankness in political dealing with the people and of honesty in public affairs.

Wilson should be nominated. That is the counsel of the Chicago situation. Wilson can meet Taft with his visor down and cut his coat of mail to shreds. The overwhelming sentiment of the people is progressive and not reactionary. The Republicans have nominated a reactionary, and if the Democrats name a reactionary they are lost. The Republican party is the traditional champion of ultra-conservatism; it has held that position for almost half a century. The Democratic party cannot hope to take from the Republican party the role which it has played so long and so successfully. The Republican party is the party of privilege; the Democratic party is the party of the people, and for it to try to go before the country as conservatives would be suicidal. It cannot match the Republicans in standstillism. It is compelled to play progressivism against conservatism.

If the Democratic party refuses to hear the appeal of the progressive voters of the country, if it disregards

the forces that demand change, the result will be its defeat. Party lines are weakening. The political independence that used to be negligible now holds the balance of power. The great independent vote of the country is every year receiving thousands of recruits from both parties. A hawk nomination by the Democrats will bring Roosevelt back as a powerful independent candidate. The country is disgusted with political machinery and political compromise, and it will back the man who is freest from these things.

If the Democrats wish to breathe life into Rooseveltism, they cannot do better than to slap the independent voters in the face by nominating Champ Clark or naming some one who is the creature of a Wall Street-Tammany combination. The Democrats, if they would win, must give the American people a candidate who not only professes progressive principles, but who has practiced them. It must choose a real leader, and not a puppet, who will play into the hands of the designing and the corrupt. In the hour of its decision, it must turn from the politicians drunk to the people sober. It must not deceive itself with the belief that it has a walk-over. If the Democrats listen to those who masquerade as Democrats, but who really sail under the black flag of privilege, their hope will be wrecked upon the rocks of folly.

Wilson is the man who measures up to the requirements of the situation. His enemies say that he is infatigable to business, but his friends point to the Economic Club speech, in which he showed that he had no desire to interfere with legitimate business; his enemies say that he is a foe of business development, but his friends point to the fact that during his term of office as Governor of New Jersey there has been a magnificent increase in the number of manufacturing concerns and the value of their product in the State. His record is splendid, and whenever he has laid his hand he has built wisely and he has not destroyed.

Woodrow Wilson presents an extraordinary opportunity for the two wings of the Democratic party to unite for undoubted triumph on a basis that will render the party an efficient instrument for social and political progress on genuine Democratic lines. He would represent the cause of progress under the Constitution and of liberty under the law. He is a fresh, a vigorous and an invigorating influence in the Democratic party, and the situation has so shaped itself that not to nominate a progressive would be a betrayal of the party's welfare. Wilson has a definite, well-reasoned program; he believes in American institutions; he has a record that will stand the acid test of Republican assault. He bows to no master save the people; he has nothing to do with the colossal gamblers and the captains of corruption who seek to be the President makers for the people. Without a machine, without means, without log rolling, he appeals to the American people as the man who can speak the truth that shall make them free, "without vision the people perish."

**WHAT A FRANCHISE MEANS.**

That the Common Council of Richmond votes to grant an important franchise in electric power without considering the nature of its gift or inquiring into its effects upon the community, and that this action is met with apparent complacency by the citizens of the community, can only mean that both Councilmen and people are ignorant of the dangers of this grant to the city. We believe that if the Council, the man on the street and the business interests were aware of the ultimate burden this grant will inevitably heap upon the backs of the consumers, there would be such a storm of protest that the proposed gift would be impossible. The Times-Dispatch, therefore, desires to emphasize a few of the fundamental facts in this matter.

To begin with, there is nothing involved or technical in the question that makes it too hard for the ordinary intelligence to grasp. Any man with ordinary sense, who is awake to his own interests, can understand the essential arguments in the case. It does not demand any knowledge of electricity or law. In the whole franchise there is only one technical term. That is kilowatt hours. This means simply the measure of electric current. It is a standard unit, like the gallon in measuring water or the cubic foot in measuring gas. The price of the kilowatt hour fixes the cost of light and power. Aside from this term, the whole paper is intelligible to a schoolboy. Therefore, the people's representatives have nothing technical to decide.

The word franchise seems to have some mystic terrors for the ordinary man. It looks deep, it isn't. For it means nothing in the world, but the gift by the city of the right to use its streets and alleys for private profit. The city grants this right because it expects a return of service. It gives the individual the power of making a profit out of the city property, in view of the return of an adequate service at a reasonable rate. Before giving this right the city's representatives must bind the applicant to give some benefit in return. That this gift made by the city has a value in itself is obvious. It is further shown by the clause in the franchise providing that the franchise be sold to the highest bidder. In this case presumably there will be but one bidder. Therefore the city must make doubly sure that it is protected against any loss.

A franchise, from this fact, has a sliding value. It includes the right to compete with another company. It

the other company wishes to avoid competition it must buy the interests of the franchise holders. If the holders have put up a lot of useless duplicating equipment, this must be paid for. Then it is torn down, and the cost is made up by an increased cost of service to the consumer. The courts have decided that a purchasing company has the right to increase its rates to include this extra investment. In other words, a gift of the city can be sold, to result in a higher cost to the city of the utility in question. The people give to private individuals the power of making money by charging the people an increased rate. Does Richmond want to run this risk?

**VACATIONS RIGHT AT HOME.**

It is with pleasure that we publish two letters on this page concerning the recreation possibilities in Richmond, especially for boys. The widespread interest in this phase of city life gives strong ground for hope that within a short time Richmond may have the facilities her younger citizens require for the best development of both health and character. We pointed out recently that Lynchburg has equipped and opened a River Young Men's Christian Association. One of our correspondents shows that practically at our very doors is an opportunity to create a similar water playground at small cost. If Mayo's Island could be developed into a swimming, rowing and athletic headquarters for the boys of the community, located, as it is, in the heart of the city, it would enable thousands to take real vacations right at home with no greater expense than carfare. A few hours of such recreation once a week would mean better workmen and better citizens and happier children.

The poor man cannot think of the mountains or the beach. He has neither the time nor money. But he needs a vacation and some sort of play more than any other element in the community. As a producer of wealth and an economic factor he should be cared for. His health and strength are assets that cannot be valued too highly. Moreover, his right to happiness must not be overlooked. Nature has furnished Richmond a substitute for the beach. But small advantage is taken of it.

One single fact will emphasize the value of this plan. Already this summer a boy of twelve has been drowned while seeking fun in swimming. The annual toll of life from this cause is heavy. Others will be drowned this year. Boys will swim. They should get the exercise and pleasure. They should be taught. By expending just enough to build a pool on the James, and stretch a few ropes for safety, and hire one man as a life guard, countless mothers would be spared hours of anxiety while their sons have "gone swimming," and a possible sacrifice of life avoided. Can the city not afford to tax itself in this small amount for its own health and pleasure?

The most pleasing sound that can come from Baltimore this week will be a few loud yelps from the Houn' Dawg.

It is too bad that Roosevelt did not publish a platform before he left so that the country could discover what he would really stand for in a new party.

One good thing about the political news is that it crowds out the pipe-dreams from the training-camps of pugilists Johnson and Flynn.

Governor Hadley, of Missouri, has been shown. He now knows how an ambitious young man can be used as a cat-paw by the wily old politicians.

The only reason we can see for Mr. Sherman's reelection is his excited interest in the baseball fortunes of the Washington club.

Judging from the past anyone who is interested in finding out what the Republican party does not stand for can do so by inserting a "Not" in its platform.

The Richmond weather is cool how ever hot the rest of the country gets.

The English papers are "ironical" about the Republican convention. Maybe the English have a sense of humor after all.

Richmond should unite in demanding a Union Station.

If the Colonel holds a convention of himself, he will then know what a model convention is.

There seems to be no way of smoothing the path to get Broad Street smooth paved.

The Council should not forget that it is the biggest hoisting agency in Richmond. Everything it does should answer one question: How will this help Richmond?

Is this McGovern any kin to the one-time "Terrible Terry" that "Terrible Teddy" should use him to slug folks over the nose?

If crops keep good, maybe the platform can be overlooked.

To the June bride the Chicago squabble is of secondary interest.

The Mecklenburg Times-Star has just moved into larger quarters and put in a large cylinder press, such changes being in conformity with the desire of the Times-Star to enlarge itself and make itself better than ever. It is already a most readable and new newspaper, and The Times-Dispatch wishes it might well.

As a precedent smasher, the Colonel is a hummer.

**On the Spur of the Moment**

By Roy K. Moulton

Advice to Lovelorn Maidens.

It is better to have loved a fat man than never to have loved at all. Don't grab him off just because he wears a white vest. It isn't an infallible sign of aristocracy.

What if he does work in a fly-papper factory? A man in that line of work is apt to stick to his job.

A man whose ears stick out from his head like the wings of a biplane is apt to be generous to a fault, perhaps more generous to a fault than to anything else.

If you are counting on getting any pin money, marry a man who carries his change loose in his trousers pocket. He may never have very much, but what he has you are welcome to. Beware strong wallets.

**Puzzle: What Was the Matter?**

"I don't know what was the matter with my husband this morning," confessed the June bride to her friend. "Is he sick?"

"I am dreadfully afraid so. He has had to stay at the office very late three or four nights. Last night he didn't get home until nearly 2 o'clock, and he was so exhausted and dizzy that he fell over the umbrella rack and woke up the whole household. This morning he was about burning up with a fever and drank over a gallon of water and he didn't touch a bit of breakfast. He had the very thought of food offended him and he looked so haggard and worn that I felt sorry for him. I think he must be working too hard."

**Ruby Clay.**

(Ruby Clay finished third in the third heat of the 200 trot and it was the blow that almost killed her father.)

It is time to say goodbye, Ruby Clay.

An—do 't with a sigh, Ruby Clay.

In my tears I am immersed, For you looked good in the first. In the third you did your worst, Ruby Clay.

**CHORUS.**

(Of ticket holders.)

Goodbye, Ruby dear, forever, I thought I broke my heart to go. I can't be again believe you. Since you have deceived me so. For you tricked me for my bankroll. And I walked back home that day Farewell, Ruby dear, forever, Goodbye, Ruby Clay.

Oh, you have a pretty face, Ruby Clay.

And I played you strong for place, Ruby Clay.

But it was an angry frown When you deftly threw me down. And I'm living on the town, Ruby Clay.

**CHORUS.**

Goodbye, Ruby dear, forever, I can't see you any more. You were touted up as clever. Ruby was stung like that before. When you hit me with that day? Pork and beans now for your tury. Goodbye, Ruby Clay.

**Voice of the People**

Invitation to Filling Creek.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—In your paper of June 21 appears an article by J. N. S. Eagle, relative to pleasure grounds for boys. In which he mentions that Christ Church sends a detachment of boys once a week to Filling Creek.

Few people know about this spot, one of the most delightful bits of natural beauty and comfort near Richmond, with its natural bathing pool filled with spring water, springs, woods, rocks and falling water.

Being interested in boys (and girls, too), and knowing what clean outdoor sports do towards developing boys into manly men and girls into womanly women, and being the owners of this property, we have put in some seats, a small bathhouse and a few other inconspicuous conveniences, and have sent circular letters to every school and club we know of in Richmond, inviting their schools to use the grounds for picnic and recreation purposes.

Everything is absolutely free of charge, except the bathhouse, and only enough will be charged for that to pay cost of maintaining.

All we ask is that the good order be maintained; that the property be not damaged or destroyed; that no ungentlemanly or undulylike conduct be indulged in, and that county authorities are co-operating with us to keep improper characters away.

Christ Church has been sending her boys for over a year now in the care of their splendid director, Mr. Toussay, and we hope that other churches will take advantage of these grounds and send their boys and girls too.

Yours truly,

A. W. BENSLEY.

**River Playground on Mayo's Island.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I have read with considerable interest your recent editorial on the subject of an island playground for the city of Richmond, and the letter of Mr. J. N. S. Eagle in your issue of this morning is a further enlightenment on the subject. The work being done by the Christ Church Association for the boys of Church Hill is indeed to be admired, but the city itself

should take a hand to provide safe places in which its young boys may enjoy aquatic as well as other outdoor sports.

Everyone in Richmond and South Richmond is probably familiar with the location of Mayo's Island, lying in the James River between the city and what is now South Richmond. Old Mayo's Bridge, at the south end of Fourteenth Street, ran right across the south side of the river. This bridge will cross Mayo's Island there is a strip of the island of probably about three acres in size. This strip is semi-circular in shape and fairly level, and why couldn't the city or some other body own this strip of land on the southern side of Mayo's Island, lying east of the new bridge and convert it into an island playground for its youthful denizens? This part of the island has never been used at all, with the exception of a small plot on the southern side, on which is located the clubhouse of the Virginia Boat Club. This land could be purchased for a reasonable sum from the present owners, and the spot is easily accessible from both Richmond and South Richmond. When the new bridge is completed the Hill Street line will doubtless run across the bridge and up Fourteenth Street to Main, and providing quick car service for the island from both sides of the river.

This plot of ground is sufficiently large for recreation grounds, swimming pool, field clubhouse, with hot and cold showers, dressing rooms, and recreation rooms, with books and magazines, etc., and whatever else is necessary for an up-to-date playground.

The Virginia Boat Club, the only present occupants of this part of the island, would doubtless be ready to operate with the city in making this spot an ideal one. The boat club has had the erection of a new clubhouse in contemplation for a number of years, and they would very readily purchase a portion of this land, and the city and erect thereon a clubhouse that would be an additional ornament to the contemplated playground.

It seems to the writer that it would be a most excellent investment for the city to acquire this strip of land, and especially so at this time. The north end of the bridge will be completed within the next few months. After this end of the bridge is completed it would be leveling off the ground to a work of leveling off the ground and erecting the necessary buildings, etc., for the playground could be begun at once, so that by early next summer, when the south end of the new bridge will have been completed and the Hill Street cars are crossing the bridge, Richmond would have a recreation ground for its boys second to none in both accessibility and appointments.

T. D. N. III.

**Omitted Facts of Virginia's History.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—It is to be regretted that modern historians have omitted some facts in the history of old Virginia which ought to be considered in forming a just opinion of her course since 1776. George Mason objected to the Constitution of the United States because it admitted of the continuation of slavery; Jefferson and Henry because it admitted of the continuation of the same man to the presidency. "Better to have an hereditary monarchy," said Jefferson, and he must have observed as Mason did, the necessity of limitation as to slavery "in esse" for he was our first emancipationist. He that said, "Jefferson's grandson, the late Colonel Thomas Jefferson Randolph, was the leader of the emancipation party in the Virginia Legislature of 1822," being ably supported by Charles James Faulkner and Judge P. A. Bolling. Their plan was to have an act passed by the Legislature providing for gradual emancipation, to be submitted to the electorate of Virginia for adoption or rejection, and voting upon the West Virginia vote to carry it. They had gathered all votes they needed except seven, and these they expected to get. What caused these votes to fail them? It is the most important question ever asked in Virginia as to emancipation. It was fortunately explained to the writer by Colonel Randolph himself, since our CIVIL WAR. The reason why the seven votes failed the emancipation party at the time was because of the overzealousness displayed by two abolitionists from Boston, who were watering in Richmond for the express purpose of furthering the cause of abolition. By their real aim to

aid a cause in which they had no personal interest, they disgusted the hesitating voters, who otherwise would have sustained the emancipation act. Hence the failure of that act, but is this the only case of inconsiderate selfishness on the part of abolitionists towards the Virginia people? Where is paid to an ex-slave owner in Virginia for slaves they robbed us of and have used in party politics since 1855? Great Britain (and Spain) paid \$100,000 for slaves emancipated as good examples of sovereignty. In the United States all are sovereigns, as Queen Victoria once said. If so, then there is nothing to prevent a wealthy abolitionist from following good examples of sovereignty and paying, individually for some of their slaves. It would redound to his honor. Christian feeling is assumed to be general throughout the United States. It is well known that many well-to-do slave owners in Virginia bought slaves to prevent separation of husband from wife. When did any abolitionist in Ohio and Indiana have attended sales, bought slaves, taken them home and made aught of them? Why did they? John Randolph of Roanoke, and Edward Cole of Virginia, both liberated their slaves, and out of their own estates bought land in Ohio and Indiana for them. Who of the abolitionists outside of Virginia has done as much? They even inaugurated excess in freedom, with its crimes, after the Civil War, and the crimes in the United States are said to stand 116 to 6 in England. Where fault is this? There is one fault, the fault of old or modern Virginians.

J. L. HUBARD.

Arlington.

**"The Man to Win With."**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—We live in the midst of the 18th inst., which you were good enough to publish, and with the further indulgence of those who may have read it, there is one fact that the writer would like to add, as illustrative of the great importance of winning that large and growing constituency, to which he referred, and that this is No Democrat has been elected to the presidency since the War Between the States without the support of the "Buckeye" vote, and the "Buckeye" vote of the country. The writer was too young to vote then, but he remembers that Tilden had this support, so did Grover, and that Governor Winthrop Wilson is the one Democrat who, it would appear from the evidence already before our eyes, can command this support.

And in this connection let me call your attention, as one of many such, to a strong article in The World's Work for June, entitled, "Before the Conventions."

When writing you on the 15th inst. the writer thought that while Wilson is a "Buckeye" in the matter of his birth, as Roosevelt, he was a greater statesman, but since the events of this week at Chicago, he is about convinced that Wilson is a "Buckeye" in this regard also. Of one thing he is sure, Woodrow Wilson, as a candidate for his country's presidency, is a mistake or had the bad taste to go to a national convention of his party and solicit its votes.

But what's the use of talking about Roosevelt? He is dead politically in spite of all this talk about his new "Buckeye" vote, and you know we must even keep in mind the sayings of the ancients: "De mortuis nil in bonum."

GEORGE D. JOHNSTON.

Richmond.

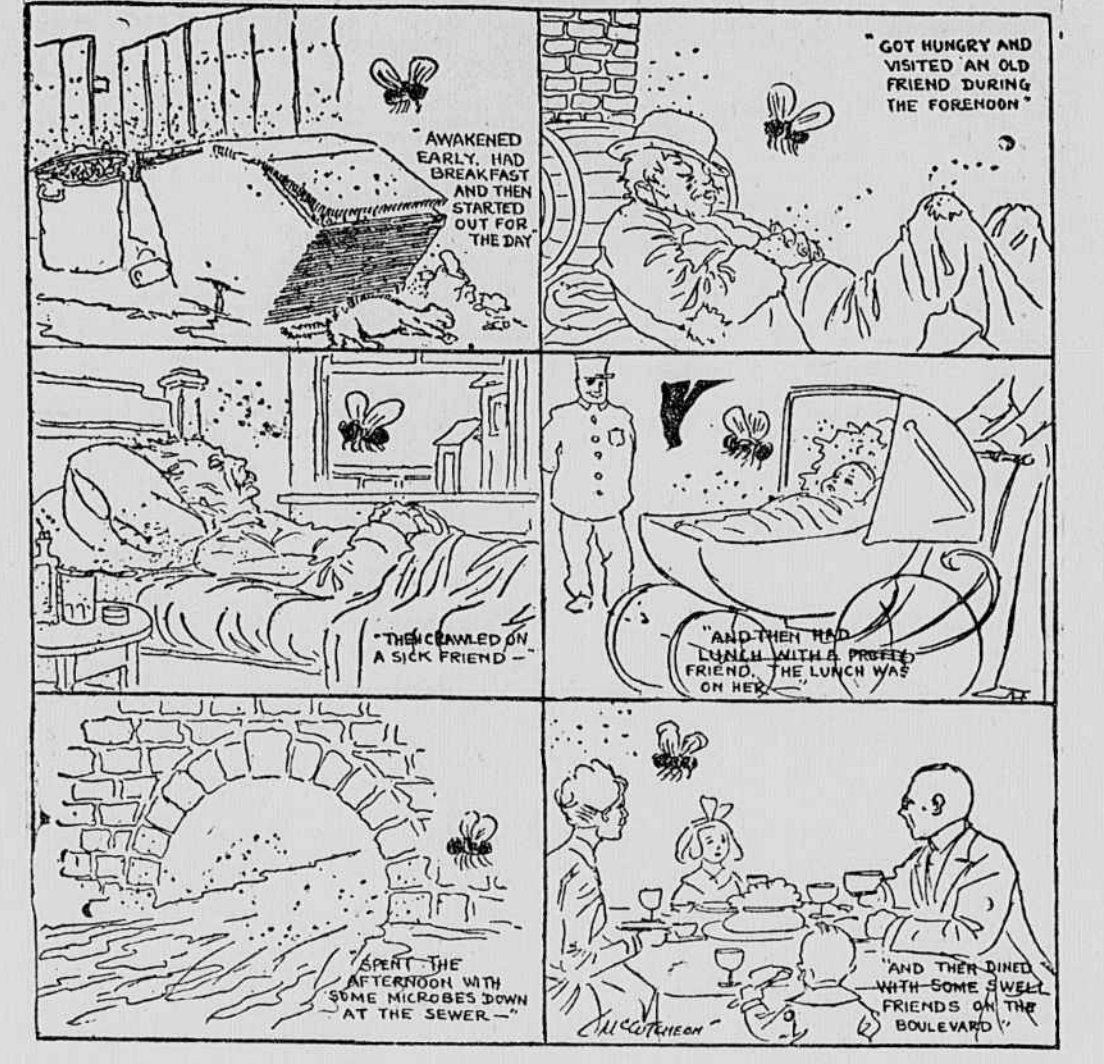
**For Parker.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Reading your editorial in today's paper relative to the use of prepared wood blocks in street paving brought to my mind the fact that in 1904 or 1905 New York City substituted these blocks for cobblestones on the main thoroughfares of the city, including lower Broadway. I believe. The advantages of this form of paving, as stated at that time, were durability, comparative freedom from noise, minimum dust from wear, ease as well as economy in tearing

# THE DIARY OF A FLY.

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.]



**Color in Monroe Park.**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Every pretty Sunday Monroe Park looks like a blackberry patch. What do visitors think about it?

N. L.

**ASHLAND NEWS NOTES**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Ashland, Va., June 23.—Dr. and Mrs. Frank Day of Ashland, who have been absent since April, are now in Italy. They will return home the last of August.

Mrs. L. N. Vaughan, Jr., has returned from Youngstown, O., and is with Mr. Vaughan at "Farnside," the country home of Mrs. L. N. Vaughan.

Miss Cornelia Ware, of Port Royal, who is the guest of Miss Louise Miller, will leave next week for Richmond, to spend some time at Virginia Beach.

Miss Sophia Hooper was the guest of friends here to-day.

Mrs. Josie Wright and Miss Mary Wright will leave next week for Clinton, S. C., to spend July with Mr. and Mrs. George M. Wright.

Mr. John Cullen and Miss Dorothy Cullen, of Richmond, have arrived to spend the summer with Mrs. Argyle. Mrs. Chas. Page, of Richmond, is the guest of Mr. J. H. Haddock.

Mrs. Duncan and Mrs. Maudie Duncan, who have been guests of Mrs. John Fisher, left Thursday for a visit to New York before returning to their home in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Newman leave Monday to spend some time at Virginia Beach.

Misses Pearl Woolfolk and Elizabeth Cheney were recent guests of Mrs. W. I. Pritchard, of Petersburg, here for the week-end.

Rev. E. L. Goodwin, of St. James Church, Ashland, has had the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by the Episcopal Theological Seminary at Alexandria.

Mrs. Frances Marsh and Miss Katherine Marsh were week-end guests of Mr. Overton Howard.

Miss Inez Merton has returned to Blackstone, after a visit to Mrs. W. W. Turner.

James Dempsey, who for a number of years has been a local operator here, has accepted a position with the Pullman Car Company.

Miss Katherine Marsh gave an attractive garden party on Thursday night in honor of Miss Alice Paine and her guest, Miss India Thomas, of Richmond. The guests included Misses Duncan, Mary Ellis, Sydney Cheney, Potts, Hughes, Johnston, Weisiger, Stebbins, Mrs. Morgan Shepley, Mrs. Stebbins, Tucker, Wright, Little, Mrs. Katherine Robinson, who has been alarmingly ill for the past two weeks, is much better, and out of danger.

**Off for Baltimore.**

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Bristol, Va., June 23.—A special train of six Pullman cars, bearing the Tennessee delegates and their friends to the Baltimore convention, made the start through Virginia from here this afternoon. Many prominent Tennesseans were aboard. Sentiment in the crowd seemed well divided between Clark, Wilson and Harmon.

**National State and City Bank**

Richmond, Virginia,  
Solicits Your Account.  
Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$600,000.  
Best by Test for forty years.